

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

DOE-15 ACDA-12 NASA-01 SOE-02 OES-09 /103 W

-----012740 290828Z /21

P 290336Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4436

C O N F I D E N T I A L 7966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, TSPA, AS

SUBJ: DECLASSIFICATION OF FACT OF SATELLITE PHOTORECONNAISSANCE

REF: CANBERRA 7945

1. IN VIEW OF APPROACH TO DEPARTMENT BY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY (BENNETT-SQUIRE TELCOM THIS AM), BELIEVE IT IS WORTH REPORTING THE REACTION WE OBTAINED AFTER FANNING OUT BEYOND ROY FERNANDEZ.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH MCMICHAEL (DIRECTOR, JIO) AND FURLONGER (DIRECTOR, ONA) PRODUCED A COOL, CALM, AND COLLECTED REACTION IN WHICH THEY ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEMS OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO WORK QUICKLY TO BRIEF OTHERS WITH A NEED TO KNOW (INCLUDING SIR ARTHUR TANGE AND DEFENCE MINISTER KILLEN) JUST BEFORE A LONG AUSTRALIAN WEEKEND. DEFENSE ATTACHE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH HAMILTON (FASIP/ADOD) WHO EVINced NO PARTICULAR CONCERN, ALTHOUGH HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR THE GOA TO TRY TO CAPITALIZE ON THE "DECLASSIFICATION" OF THE FACT OF SATELLITE PHOTORECONNAISSANCE.

3. JOHN RIDLEY (PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PEACOCK) CALLED POLCOUNS AT HOME LAST NIGHT TO ASK WHETHER IT MIGHT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ADVANCE TEXT OF THAT PORTION OF PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH DEALING WITH SATELLITE PHOTORECONNAISSANCE JUST SO MINISTERS CAN SEE PRECISE LANGUAGE PRESIDENT PLANS TO USE. RIDLEY' ONLY CONCERN SEEMED TO BE THAT TIMING OF SPEECH WOULD CATCH MOST MINISTERS OUTSIDE OF CANBERRA OVER LONG LOCAL HOLIDAY WEEKEND, THUS MAKING COORDINATION DIFFICULT AND

ADVANCE SPADE WORK A LITTLE MORE DESIRABLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REACTION IN CANBERRA SEEMS A BIT
MORE RELAXED THAN THAT FROM AUSTRALIAN MISSION IN WASHINGTON,
BUT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD OFFER
SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS AN ADVANCE TEXT OF THAT PORTION
OF PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH ON A CLOSE HOLD BASIS
AND SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIO THAT IT MAY CHANGE SLIGHTLY IN
DELIVERY.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DECLASSIFICATION, SURVEILLANCE, SATELLITES, PHOTOGRAPHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780397-0563
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From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978097/aaaaafqn.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PINR, TSPA, AS
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Review Markings:
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